

Know Your Hospital



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HARRISBURG STATE HOSPITAL

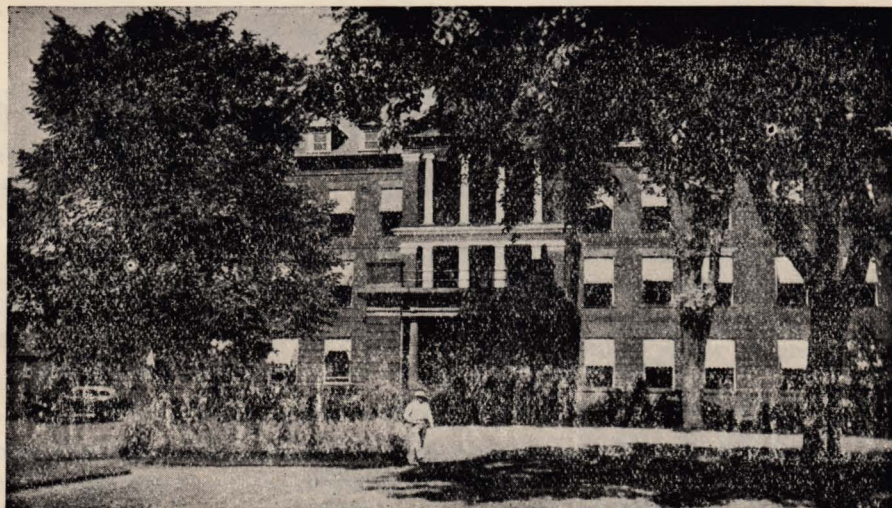


October 1947

This bulletin edited by the Social Service Department will be published at
irregular intervals for distribution to the public.

The trite saying, "This is a changing world", has never seemed more true than at the present time. We all know that many changes came about, of necessity, during the war years. Usually, people adapted themselves to new conditions and in many instances good resulted from their efforts. In our small community here at the hospital, we have become accustomed to changes. There have been changes in our staff, changes in the treatment of certain types of mental illness, and certainly changes in the cost of maintenance.

Some of our friends are conversant with these things, but we believe that others, who may not know us so well, might like to become more familiar with what is happening in our hospital. We have decided, therefore, to circulate this little bulletin from time to time. Please let us know if you like it, and tell us what you would like to have us talk about.



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

The Administration Building was the first building erected in reconstruction of Hospital 1894 to 1910. Cornerstone laid in 1894. Contains superintendent's office and business offices of the institution.

At the present time the operating budget of this hospital is \$1,250,000 a year. This has risen considerably during the last few years, due to the general increase in costs everywhere. Since we hear discussion regarding the high cost of living on all sides, let us tell you at this time a little about our maintenance problem. Just now we are paying 45 cents a pound for beef which in 1936 cost 14 cents; for bacon we pay 64 cents a pound when in 1936 it was 22 cents. The present price of butter is 80 cents a pound while in 1936 it was 28 cents. Muslin for which we pay 42 cents a yard was purchased then for 14½ cents. Percale is now 42½ cents, and the same yard could be bought for only 10½ cents in 1936.

If you multiply the price of one pound and of one yard many times, the result will be startling. So you can understand how difficult it is for us to be good providers, as we have always tried our best to be, and still balance our budget.

Probably you know already that many of the vegetables for the institution's table are grown on our farms. This custom, in addition to being an economical measure, provides healthful employment for a large group of patients. Many of our men enjoy working in the fields and gardens, and the women take pleasure in helping to preserve the good things for winter use. During this summer we canned over 11,000 gallons of tomatoes alone.

And while we are talking about our food stuffs, we must not forget to mention that we have a fine herd of cattle, housed in a beautiful and modern dairy barn. Our herd produces 400 or more gallons of milk daily. We receive also over 1000 eggs a day from our henery. Of course, it is necessary for us to buy more milk and eggs, but the "home products" are a great help in many ways and, in the case of eggs and milk, furnish 80 percent of our consumption.

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To mark the end of our summer season, and the beginning of winter, the Occupational Therapy Department arranged a delightful Hallowe'en party. It was attended by over 300 patients, 100 of whom came dressed in appropriate fancy costumes. Prizes were presented for the best costumes of various types - to guests wearing the prettiest the most original and funniest masquerades. A prize was given also to the couple adjudged the most graceful dancers. Music was furnished during the entire evening by a Harrisburg orchestra. Through the courtesy of the Athletic Association, cider was served on all the wards before the party. We are planning now to have other festivities for the patients during the winter months.

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Of deeper interest to you, however, than even the important subjects of maintenance and entertainment will be an introduction to the members of our staff. Many of our readers will have met at least several of these physicians. Nevertheless, they may like to know more about the education, training and former experiences of these good men and women.

It is not our intention in the little thumb-nail sketches, which will appear in our bulletins, to flatter our physicians or to give them any undue praise. At the same time we shall attempt to tell about some of their attainments, feeling that the relatives and friends of our patients will be glad to become better acquainted with the men and women who are in charge of their hospital.



Howard K. Petry, M. D.
Superintendent

From 1932 to 1934 he was clinical director at the Torrance State Hospital, and in February, 1934 he was called here to become superintendant of the Harrisburg State Hospital.

Since coming to Harrisburg in 1934, the superintendent has associated himself with the life of the community. He is a past-president of the Dauphin County Medical Society and the University Club of Harrisburg, and is a member of the Torch and Rotary Clubs, also a director of the Harrisburg National Bank. Our superintendent is on the consulting staffs of the Harrisburg General and the Polyclinic Hospitals.

In addition to his many duties at this hospital, Dr. Petry was acting director of the Bureau of Mental Health, of the State Department of Welfare, for almost one year during the war period. He was appointed by former Governor Martin as chairman of the Mental Hospital Survey Committee, which furnished the basic information for the \$80,-000,000 expansion program. At the present time he is a member of Governor Duff's Hospital Survey Board.

Naturally, you will want to hear first about the head of the institution, Dr. Howard K. Petry. The superintendent attended the public schools of Wilkes-Barre, his home city, and graduated from the high school in 1911. He studied next at Wesleyan University, graduating with a B. A. degree in 1915. After teaching in a high school for one year, he entered medical school at the University of Pennsylvania and graduated there in 1920. Later, he did post-graduate work in psychiatry and neurology at the University of Pennsylvania, and at New York Neurological Institute.

After acting as interne for a year at the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, Dr. Petry joined the staff of the Warren State Hospital, where he remained from 1921 to 1932.

Dr. Petry is a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, of the American College of Physicians, and the American Medical Association, as well as the immediate past-president of the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania. He is also a member of the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society and the Philadelphia Psychiatric Society.

The hospital, under Dr. Petry's leadership, has been always on the alert to institute new things, when they were good things. This was one of the first hospitals in the United States to use malarial therapy. It was also early in the field to use insulin shock and electro-shock. It may be of interest to know that the Harrisburg State Hospital has the only active course for licensed attendants in Pennsylvania's State Hospital system.

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As you are aware, our population continues to increase. In 1936 there were 2,040 patients in the hospital, and at the present time we have 2,440. Encouraging to note is the fact that, as our hospital population increases, we are at the same time sending more and more patients back to their homes and communities. While in 1936 there were 152 patients living outside of the hospital on trial, there are at the present time 502 extra-mural patients. During the month of September alone, we returned 51 patients to their homes and communities.

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The hospital exists for the care of patients whose illness prevents their living in the community. It is our constant aim to return as many of them to their homes as possible.



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